



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20460**

July 16, 2001

OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR  
EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

**Note to the Reader:**

The attached draft report is a draft report of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB). The draft is still undergoing final internal SAB review, however, in its present form, it represents the consensus position of the panel involved in the review. Once approved as final, the report will be transmitted to the EPA Administrator and will become available to the interested public as a final report.

This draft has been released for general information to members of the interested public and to EPA staff. This is consistent with the SAB policy of releasing draft materials only when the Committee involved is comfortable that the document is sufficiently complete to provide useful information to the reader. The reader should remember that this is an unapproved working draft and that the document should not be used to represent official EPA or SAB views or advice. Draft documents at this stage of the process often undergo significant revisions before the final version is approved and published.

The SAB is not soliciting comments on the advice contained herein. However, as a courtesy to the EPA Program Office which is the subject of the SAB review, we have asked them to respond to the issues listed below. Consistent with SAB policy on this matter, the SAB is not obligated to address any responses which it receives. Responses are due no later than INSERT DATE.

1. Has the Committee adequately responded to the questions posed in the Charge?
2. Are any statements or responses made in the draft unclear?
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For further information or to respond to the questions above, please contact:

A. Robert Flaak, Designated Federal Officer  
EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A)  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460-0001  
(202) 564-4546 Fax: (202) 501-0582  
E-Mail: [flaak.robert@epa.gov](mailto:flaak.robert@epa.gov)



# **RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FY2000 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT (STAA) AWARD NOMINATIONS: AN SAB REPORT**

**A REPORT BY THE SCIENTIFIC  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EPA  
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

July 11, 2001

EPA-SAB-EC-01-00x – DRAFT

Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Recommendations on the FY2000 Scientific and Technological Achievement  
Awards (STAA) Award Nominations: an SAB Report

Dear Governor Whitman:

The EPA Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Subcommittee has completed its review of the nominations submitted by the Agency for the FY2000 awards program. The Subcommittee conducted its review in closed session on June 11-12, 2001 in Washington, DC. The results of the Subcommittee's efforts were reviewed and approved by the EPA Science Advisory Board's Executive Committee at a public meeting held in the US EPA National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL) in Cincinnati, OH on July 17-18, 2001.

The STAA program is sponsored by the Office of Research and Development (ORD), which continues to do a creditable job in soliciting and assembling these nominations. Each year (except for 1995 during the government-wide shutdown) the Board convenes a special panel to review nominated papers published by Agency researchers. Our recommendations for awards and further improvements in the STAA program are discussed in the enclosed report.

The Agency solicited nominations in eleven categories this year: Control Systems & Technology (CS), Ecology & Ecosystem Risk Assessment (ER), Health Effects & Health Risk Assessment (HE), Monitoring & Measurement Methods (MM), Transport & Fate (TF), Review Articles (RA), Risk Management and Policy Formulation (RM), Integrated Risk Management (IR), Environmental Trends for Drivers of Future Risk (EF), Social Science Research (SS), and Environmental Education (EE). Agency scientists and engineers submitted a total of 126 nominations from among the first nine categories. Nominations were not submitted for the last two categories this year (SS and EE). A total of 42 were recommended for a cash award, with an additional 21 recommended for Honorable Mention.

1  
2 Recommendations are included for awards in seven of the nine categories for which  
3 nominations were submitted. One nomination each was submitted in the Environmental Trends for  
4 Drivers of Future Risk (EF) and Integrated Risk Management (IR) categories, and while awards were  
5 not recommended for these nominations, the Subcommittee was encouraged to see nominations in  
6 these categories and hopes to see additional nominations in the future. In addition, the Subcommittee is  
7 recommending 21 papers for Honorable Mention. The authors whose papers were recommended for  
8 awards this year represent the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), the Office of Prevention, Pesticides,  
9 and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), the  
10 Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation (OPEI), Region VIII, and 15 research laboratories and  
11 centers within the Office of Research and Development.  
12

13 The Subcommittee continues to encourage the Agency to nominate peer-reviewed papers from  
14 all programs and areas of scientific and technological research because scientific and technological  
15 achievements in these areas should not be limited to ORD laboratories. As we have pointed out in  
16 each of our recent reports, the Subcommittee continues to noted the lack of a significant number of  
17 nominations from Program areas other than ORD. However, this year there was a modest increase in  
18 the number of such papers. In fact, we are pleased to note this year, that one of our two  
19 recommendations for a Level I award comes from an office outside of ORD.  
20

21 The process of publishing EPA scientific findings in peer reviewed journals enhances the rigor  
22 of the science and the reputation of the Agency and its programs. Managers should encourage and  
23 provide the opportunities for their program scientists and engineers to conduct challenging investigations  
24 and publish the data and technical analysis which address aspects of the Agency's policies and  
25 regulations. We commend the staff of ORD for administering the STAA program. The ORD staff has  
26 made significant improvements in the program and in the nomination packages which have facilitated the  
27 Subcommittee's review procedures. The Subcommittee strongly recommends that ORD management  
28 continue to solicit participation of other Agency scientists and engineers as part of the Agency's goals to  
29 improve its scientific underpinnings and peer review of regulatory science. We recommend that ORD  
30 continue to announce this program early and that additional efforts be made to advertise it even more  
31 broadly next year to ensure greater participation by all program areas of the Agency.  
32

33 The Subcommittee continues to feel that the STAA program is an important mechanism for  
34 recognizing and promoting high quality, peer-reviewed work published in top scientific and  
35 technological journals. This is even more critical as Agency programs continue to improve their overall  
36 commitment to, and compliance with the Agency's Peer Review Policy and the Peer Review  
37 Handbook. Furthermore, it supports your emphasis on sound science forming the basis for sound  
38 decisions.  
39

We would appreciate being informed of the final disposition of awards and the mechanisms by which EPA advertises these awards to the Agency at large and the overall scientific community. This has been a long standing request by the Subcommittee and is the subject of a separate Commentary.

We are pleased to have participated in this process once again and believe it is appropriate for the Board to continue this annual review function. We look forward to serving the Agency again in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Glaze, Chair  
EPA Science Advisory Board

Dr. C. H. Ward, Chair  
Scientific and Technological Achievement  
Awards Subcommittee  
EPA Science Advisory Board

## NOTICE

This report has been written as part of the activities of the EPA Science Advisory Board, a public advisory group providing extramural scientific information and advice to the Administrator and other officials of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Board is structured to provide balanced, expert assessment of scientific matters related to problems facing the Agency. This report has not been reviewed for approval by the Agency and, hence, the contents of this report do not necessarily represent the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor of other agencies in the Executive Branch of the Federal government, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute a recommendation for use.

**Distribution and Availability:** This EPA Science Advisory Board report is provided to the EPA Administrator, senior Agency management, appropriate program staff, interested members of the public, and is posted on the SAB website ([www.epa.gov/sab](http://www.epa.gov/sab)). Information on its availability is also provided in the SAB's monthly newsletter (*Happenings at the Science Advisory Board*). Additional copies and further information are available from the SAB Staff [US EPA Science Advisory Board (1400A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001; 202-564-4546].

## ABSTRACT

This report represents the conclusions and recommendations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board regarding the FY2000 EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Program. The STAA Program is an Agency-wide competition to promote and recognize scientific and technological achievements by EPA employees, fostering a greater exposure of EPA research to the public. The Program was initiated in 1980 and is managed by the Office of Research and Development (ORD).

The Agency submitted for review 126 nominations from the first nine of the eleven award categories this year (Control Systems & Technology, Ecology & Ecosystem Risk Assessment, Health Effects & Health Risk Assessment, Monitoring & Measurement Methods, Transport & Fate, Review Articles, Risk Management and Policy Formulation, Integrated Risk Management, Environmental Trends for Drivers of Future Risk, Social Science Research, and Environmental Education). Of these, the Subcommittee recommended 42 nominations (33 percent of the nominations) for awards, and also recommended that 21 additional nominations be recognized with Honorable Mention. The authors whose papers were recommended for awards this year represent the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), the Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation (OPEI), Region VIII, and 15 research laboratories and centers within the Office of Research and Development.

The Subcommittee encouraged the Agency to continue support for the STAA program as a mechanism for recognizing and promoting high quality research in support of the Agency's mission. The Subcommittee also strongly encouraged that EPA broadly acknowledge the results of the award competition.

**KEY WORDS:** Awards, Technology, Scientific Achievements, Peer-Review

1 **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
2 **EPA Science Advisory Board**  
3 **Scientific And Technological Achievement Awards Subcommittee\***  
4

5 **CHAIR**

6 **Dr. C. Herb Ward**, Director, Energy Environmental Systems, Inc., Rice University, Houston, TX  
7

8 **EC MEMBERS**

9 **Dr. William H. Smith**, Clifton R. Musser Professor Emeritus of Forest Biology, Yale University, Center  
10 Harbor, NH Also Member: Research Strategies Advisory Committee  
11

12 **CONSULTANTS**

13 **Dr. Roger Cochran**, Consultant, Department of Pesticide Regulation, California Environmental  
14 Protection Agency, Sacramento, CA  
15

16 **Dr. Richard A. Conway**, Environmental Consultant, Charleston, WV  
17

18 **Dr. Deborah Cory-Slechta**, Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Medicine, Medical  
19 School, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY  
20

21 **Dr. Richard Di Giulio**, Professor, Levine Science Research Center, Nicholas School of the  
22 Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC  
23

24 **Dr. Allan Legge**, President, Biosphere Solutions, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA  
25

26 **Dr. Frederick Pohland**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of  
27 Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
28

29 **Dr. Mitchell Small**, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Carnegie Mellon  
30 University, Pittsburgh, PA  
31

32 **Dr. Michael Trehly**, Senior Research Specialist, Solutia, Inc., St. Louis, MO  
33

34 **Dr. Judith S. Weis**, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ  
35

36 **EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD STAFF**

37 **Mr. A. Robert Flaak**, Designated Federal Officer, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC  
38

39 **Dr. K. Jack Kooyoomjian**, Designated Federal Officer, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC  
40

41 **Ms. Mary Winston**, Management Assistant, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC  
42

43 \* Members of this SAB Panel consist of

44 a) SAB Members: Experts appointed by the Administrator to serve on one of the SAB Standing Committees.



- b) SAB Consultants: Experts appointed by the SAB Staff Director to a one-year term to serve on ad hoc Panels formed to address a particular issue.
- c) Liaisons: Members of other Federal Advisory Committees who are not Members or Consultants of the Board.
- d) Federal Experts: The SAB charter precludes Federal employees from being Members of the Board. "Federal Experts" are federal employees who have technical knowledge and expertise relevant to the subject matter under review or study by a particular panel.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) Subcommittee of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) reviewed and evaluated the 126 nominations for the FY2000 program that were submitted by EPA research laboratory directors and program office directors. The Subcommittee met in Washington, DC, on June 11-12, 2001, to determine award recommendations.

The STAA review program is a long-standing partnership between the Agency and the EPA Science Advisory Board. Each year since 1980 Agency scientists and engineers have submitted nominated scientific and technological papers through an internal Agency review process managed by the Office of Research and Development (ORD). (Note: The Agency did not conduct the STAA Program during 1995 when there was a government-wide shutdown.) This review process ensures that the best scientific papers are submitted to the SAB for evaluation in the awards process. The SAB convenes an experienced group of scientists and engineers who meet in a closed meeting to review and evaluate the nominations. The SAB review panel produces a set of award recommendations which ORD uses in preparing the actual awards.

This year, the Subcommittee recommended 42 nominations for awards and recommended that 21 additional papers be recognized with Honorable Mention. The Subcommittee applied the evaluation criteria evenly across all nomination categories, without attempting to ensure equal numbers or percentages of awards in each category. The offices from which papers were recommended for awards this year are OAR, OPPTS, OSWER, OPEI, Region VIII, and 15 research laboratories and centers within the Office of Research and Development.

The Subcommittee recommends that continued attention be paid to providing opportunities for EPA's scientists, engineers, and other technical personnel to conduct challenging, soundly based studies that result in peer-reviewed papers having high impact on important scientific issues and issues of specific importance to EPA.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Request for EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Review

At the request of the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), the EPA Science Advisory Board convened a subcommittee to review and evaluate scientific and technological papers published in peer-reviewed journals by EPA authors and nominated for the FY2000 EPA Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA) program. The STAA Subcommittee was asked to evaluate nominated papers for awards based on the rules developed by ORD. In January 2001, the Office of Research and Development (ORD) provided the SAB with copies of 126 nominations. The Subcommittee used the 1998 STAA Nomination Procedures and Guidelines, which describes the award levels, eligibility criteria (including the minimum EPA contribution and employer status of the principal author), and the criteria the SAB should use to evaluate the nominations. Although there are eleven nomination categories, ORD only received nominations in nine categories this year. ORD grouped the papers into these nine categories of science and technology<sup>1</sup>, and screened the papers for conformance with the nomination guidelines. No nominations were submitted in the other two categories this year.<sup>2</sup>

As described in the 1998 STAA Nomination Procedures and Guidelines, the SAB was asked to recommend papers for each of three Levels of Award.

- a) Level I awards - are for nominees who have accomplished an exceptionally high-quality research or technological effort with national significance. These awards recognize the initiation or general revision of scientific/technological principles or procedures, or highly significant improvement in the value of a device, activity, program, or service to the public. It must be at least of national significance or have high impact on a broad area of science/technology. The nomination must be of far reaching consequences and recognizable as a major scientific/technological achievement within its discipline or field of study. The cash award for this level is \$5,000 divided among the EPA eligible authors, based on their individual level of effort as defined in the nomination.
- b) Level II awards - are for nominees who have accomplished a notably excellent research or technological effort that has qualities and values similar to, but to a lesser degree, than those described under Level I. It must have timely consequences and

---

<sup>1</sup> These categories are: Control Systems & Technology (CS), Ecology & Ecosystem Risk Assessment (ER), Health Effects & Health Risk Assessment (HE), Monitoring & Measurement Methods (MM), Transport & Fate (TF), Review Articles (RA), Risk Management and Policy Formulation (RM), Integrated Risk Management (IR), and Environmental Trends for Drivers of Future Risk (EF).

<sup>2</sup> These categories are: Environmental Education (EE) and Social Science Research (SS).

1 contribute as an important scientific/technological achievement within its discipline or  
2 field of study. The cash award for this level is \$2,500 divided among the EPA eligible  
3 authors, based on their individual level of effort as defined in the nomination.  
4

- 5 c) Level III awards - are for nominees who have accomplished an unusually notable  
6 research or technological effort. The nomination can be for a substantial revision or  
7 modification of a scientific/technological principle or procedure, or an important  
8 improvement to the value of a device, activity, program, or service to the public.  
9 Research for this award must relate to a mission or organizational component of the  
10 EPA, or significantly affect a relevant area of science/technology. The cash award for  
11 this level is \$1,000 divided among the EPA eligible authors, based on their individual  
12 level of effort as defined in the nomination.  
13

- 14 d) Honorable Mention - The Subcommittee has also added a fourth non-cash level award  
15 for nominations which are noteworthy but which do not warrant a Level I, II or III  
16 award. Honorable Mention applies to nominations that: (1) may not quite reach the  
17 level described for a Level III award; (2) show a promising area of research that the  
18 Subcommittee wants to encourage; or (3) show an area of research that the  
19 Subcommittee feels is too preliminary to warrant an award recommendation (yet).  
20

## 21 **2.2 Subcommittee Review Procedures**

22

23 The Review Panel was convened as an *ad hoc* subcommittee of the EPA Science Advisory  
24 Board (SAB). Membership included a significant number of returning STAA panelists; consequently,  
25 the level of experience with the process matched the level of scientific and technical expertise. In  
26 addition, many panelists hold editorial positions on highly regarded scientific journals.  
27

28 Copies of all nominations/papers and the award program guidelines and nomination evaluation  
29 criteria were provided to Subcommittee members in advance of the review meeting. Subcommittee  
30 members selected nominations/papers to review based on their expertise, being sure to select, when  
31 appropriate, papers from across all nomination categories. Typically, each Subcommittee member  
32 chose at least 35 nominations to review. Members were encouraged to include nominations from areas  
33 of general expertise as well as areas in which they were most familiar. As part of the evaluation,  
34 Subcommittee members were asked to rank their own expertise in the field of science and technology  
35 addressed by each nomination they selected for review. These rankings were considered by the  
36 Subcommittee during the evaluation of each nomination. Each nomination was reviewed by at least  
37 three qualified Subcommittee members and then presented to the full Subcommittee and discussed  
38 during the review and evaluation meeting that was held in Washington, DC on June 11-12, 2001.  
39 Nominations judged to merit an award at some level were reviewed a second time by the  
40 Subcommittee, and in most cases, a third time, to ensure that a complete evaluation had been made and  
41 that the appropriate award level was recommended. Nominations that were initially not recommended

for an award were also re-reviewed to determine if the nomination might merit either an Honorable Mention or numerical award.

In reviewing the nominations, the Subcommittee members qualitatively considered evaluation criteria factors such as: the overall impact of the nominated paper(s) on scientific knowledge or technology relevant to environmental issues; the level of effort; the creativity, originality, initiative, and problem solving exhibited by the researchers; the beneficial impacts of the accomplishments and the recognition of the results outside the Agency; the extent to which an Agency function, mission, program, activity, or service is improved; and the nature and extent of the peer review, including the stature of the journal.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to the review and evaluation meeting, Subcommittee members forwarded the results of their review to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Subcommittee. The initial ranking along with the self-professed expertise of each reviewer for that particular nomination was compiled by the DFO in a tabular format (see Table I for an example) and then

**Table I - Example of how Initial Individual Reviewer Rankings are Compiled** *(Data for illustration purposes only)*

Nomination Number	Title of Nomination	Reviewer			Final Ranking (at meeting)
		Name	Expertise *	Initial Individual Ranking	
HE0019	Health Assessment: Trinitrochicken wire	Dr. Smith	2	NR	NR
		Dr. Jones	3	III	
		Dr. Adams	4	NR	
ER0122	Ecological Impacts of Trinitrochicken wire	Dr. Smith	4	HM	III
		Dr. Jones	3	III	
		Dr. Adams	2	NR	
		Dr. Williams	3	III	
RA0098	Trinitrochicken wire - A Review	Dr. Black	3	I	I
		Dr. Green	4	I	
		Dr. Jackson	2	II	
		Dr. White	1	III	

\* Expertise levels are rated as follows: 1 = not related to major discipline of reviewer; 2 = general knowledge of research area; 3 = general knowledge of active research; and 4 = specific area of active research. NR = Not Recommended for an award; HM = Honorable Mention; I, II, III = Award Levels

<sup>3</sup> These criteria are discussed more fully in section VII of the 1998 Nomination Procedures and Guidelines provided to the Subcommittee by the Agency.

1 used at the review and evaluation meeting to help focus the discussion on each individual nomination.  
2 Initial individual rankings were subject to change based on discussions at the review and evaluation  
3 meeting. The final ranking agreed to at that meeting is a consensus ranking. The examples given in  
4 Table I are illustrative. All nominations receiving a recommendation for a Level I, II or III award or an  
5 Honorable Mention are listed in Appendix A.  
6

7 The Subcommittee met on June 11-12, 2001, in Washington, DC in a closed session due to the  
8 discussions of issues concerning personal privacy and potential cash awards. Consistent with the  
9 requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) 5 U.S.C. App.2, and  
10 sections 552(b)(2) and (b)(6) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(2) and 552(b)(6),  
11 this closed meeting was announced in a Federal Register<sup>4</sup> notice signed by the EPA Administrator. All  
12 Subcommittee members were present at the meeting. The Subcommittee developed preliminary ratings  
13 for papers in each category, including discussion of each nominated paper. After completing all  
14 preliminary evaluations, the Subcommittee revisited the recommendations category by category to  
15 resolve any final issues and ensure consistency in applying the award criteria across categories.  
16

17 This Subcommittee report was reviewed and approved by the SAB's Executive Committee  
18 (EC) at its public meeting on July 17-18, 2001 in Cincinnati, OH. For that review, the Subcommittee  
19 report, less the actual award recommendations (Appendix A), was made available to the EC and the  
20 interested public.

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<sup>4</sup> 65 Federal Register 19933, April 18, 2001.

### 3. EVALUATION OF THE FY2000 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

#### 3.1 General Findings of the Subcommittee

In recent years, based on the continuing decline in the number of our recommendations for Level I and Level II awards (see Table II - Comparison of Level I & II Awards over Time), the Subcommittee has felt that the overall quality of the papers nominated has been declining. This year, we are happy to report, has shown an increase in both Level I (two) and

**Table II - Comparison of Level I & II Awards over Time**

Award Level	FY1996	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000
Level I	4	3	1	0	2
Level II	16	11	7	5	11

Level II (11) awards. We hope this is indicative of rise in the overall quality of submitted nominations and will be a continuing trend in the coming years. The STAA program is an important mechanism for recognizing and promoting high quality, peer-reviewed work published in top scientific and technological journals. The STAA Program can also serve as a benchmark for the quality of the research produced by the Agency since the same metrics and level and breadth of expertise of reviewers (Subcommittee members) are used each year. The authors whose papers were recommended for awards this year represent OAR, OPPTS, OSWER, OPEI, Region VIII, and 15 research laboratories and centers within the Office of Research and Development.

The Subcommittee recommends that ORD continue to request the submission of nominations early, and that ORD advertise the program more aggressively, so that Regional and Program offices have adequate time to prepare their nominations. The limited number of nominations from outside of ORD was again a disappointment to the Subcommittee; however, the increase to six nominations was an improvement over last year. While we recognize that most of the in-house research is conducted by ORD scientists in ORD laboratories, the submission process needs to encourage submissions from outside of ORD as well.

The Subcommittee also encourages the Agency to continue to broaden the scope of nominated papers and to promote multi-disciplinary research that directly supports risk management and policy decisions. In evaluating nominations for awards, the Subcommittee looked for papers with well-developed hypotheses, good sampling or experimental design, and where the theoretical basis is verified by field validation or thorough testing of a model. We also looked for innovative applications of theories from other disciplines and collaborations of interdisciplinary teams of scientists and engineers.

1 In addition, the Subcommittee encourages the submission of nominations which address exposure  
2 assessment.

3  
4 In order to evaluate papers that present incremental results in a series of published works, the  
5 Subcommittee recommends that the nomination guidelines prepared by ORD explicitly require  
6 discussion of related research published previously by the lead author(s), including information on any  
7 STAA awards given. When possible, nominations should include all papers in a series, providing they  
8 are within the time limit. This would allow a series of incremental studies to be evaluated for an award  
9 as a package.

10  
11 Once again this year, the Subcommittee has recommended awards in the Risk Management  
12 and Policy Formulation (RM) category. The Subcommittee hopes to see more peer reviewed papers  
13 nominated in this category next year, as this is an important area of research for the Agency. In  
14 addition, two papers were submitted in the Integrated Risk Assessment category, and while an award  
15 was not recommended, the Subcommittee was encouraged to see nominations in this category and  
16 hopes to see additional nominations in the future. The Subcommittee feels that the process of  
17 converting Agency policy analysis and the technical foundations of its rule making into scientific articles  
18 for peer review is essential to maintain the quality in its science. This is also an important way to  
19 improve the Agency's reputation for scientific achievement. Laboratory directors and program  
20 managers should encourage the authors of policy formulation papers and regulatory impact analyses to  
21 develop technical articles for peer reviewed literature.

22  
23 The focus of nominated papers should be on investigation and the creation of new technology  
24 and scientific and technical knowledge and information, rather than the reporting and communication of  
25 existing information, such as describing environmental regulations or current methods for pollution  
26 control. While such papers are extremely valuable and important for the agency, and the articles may  
27 be well-written and effective, they do not really fit within the purview of achievements in science and  
28 technology. The STAA Program is designed to recognize accomplishments in science and technology,  
29 hence, nominations in these fields and others should be focused on the new significant scientific  
30 knowledge developed by the Agency in these fields. Review articles with new and useful analysis and  
31 synthesis of existing information also are important; and in fact, several were recognized this year.

32  
33 Finally, the Subcommittee believes that the STAA program provides one view of the technical  
34 and scientific progress that the Agency is making in various areas of research. This year's activities  
35 represent strengths in a variety of technological assessments, analytical measurements, and in certain  
36 areas of human health effects research.

### 37 **3.2 STAA Program Administrative Recommendations**

38  
39  
40 The Subcommittee commends the staff of ORD for administering the STAA program. The staff  
41 has made significant improvements in the program and the nomination packages that have facilitated the



1 Subcommittee's review procedures. The Subcommittee recommends that ORD management continue  
2 to solicit participation of other Agency scientists and engineers as part of the Agency's goals to improve  
3 its scientific underpinnings and peer review of regulatory science.  
4

5 Last year, the Subcommittee made a number of recommendations to ORD staff and managers  
6 that work with the STAA program, and to the authors of the nominated papers. We are pleased to see  
7 that many of these recommendations have already been implemented. Although our most recent  
8 recommendations from last year were not made in time to be included in this year's package, we look  
9 forward to seeing those changes next year. We appreciate the effort to accommodate our  
10 recommendations and, as a result, look forward to an even more improved program next year. We  
11 offer the following additional recommendations and/or comments:  
12

- 13 a) Review articles (Category RA) must include a synthesis and an analysis, not just a  
14 summary of relevant literature.  
15
- 16 b) The suggested citations provided for many of the nominations need to reflect the value  
17 of the work to the Agency. Once again, as was the case last year, many of this year's  
18 submissions merely contained a statement that reflected the nature of the research  
19 without any indication of the value of the work to EPA.  
20
- 21 c) The Subcommittee again strongly urges the Agency to publicize the names of the award  
22 winning scientists and engineers and their papers both within the Agency and outside  
23 the Agency in a variety of ways. For example, the Agency should announce these  
24 winners by placing the title and abstract of their papers, along with the source of the  
25 paper, on the Agency's Website. The Agency should also develop press releases or  
26 letters from the Administrator that are targeted toward the journal that published the  
27 articles, professional society newsletters, and local newspapers in the vicinity of the  
28 scientist/engineer's research facility.  
29
- 30 d) Subcommittee has requested, but has yet to receive any feedback from the Agency  
31 regarding how the Agency has handled the announcement of award winners or the  
32 general approach EPA has taken to present the awards themselves.  
33

### 34 **3.3 Award Recommendations**

35

36 The EPA authors recommended for awards include scientists and engineers from OAR,  
37 OPPTS, OSWER, OPEI, Region VIII, and 15 research laboratories and centers within the Office of  
38 Research and Development. See the detailed breakout of authors in Appendix A for further  
39 clarification.  
40

1           Awards were recommended in seven of the eleven nomination categories, and for seven of the  
2 nine categories for which nominations were submitted. A total of 42 nominations were recommended  
3 for awards. A summary of the distribution of award recommendations

among categories is presented in Table III. There were 126 nominations with over 130 individual papers submitted. Of those submitted, 63 were recommended for an award (42) or

**TABLE III - Summary of FY2000 Award Recommendations**

Nomination Categories *	Total Nom.	Award Levels				Award %	Hon. Men.
		I	II	III	Tot		
Control Systems & Technology (CS)	13	1	2	2	5	38%	2
Ecology, Ecosystem Risk Assessment & Protection (ER)	20	1	0	6	7	35%	4
Health Effects, Health Risk Assessment (HE)	30	0	3	8	11	37%	5
Monitoring & Measurement Methods (MM)	17	0	2	3	5	29%	2
Transport and Fate (TF)	22	0	0	7	7	32%	5
Review Articles (RA)	18	0	3	2	5	28%	3
Risk Management & Policy Formulation (RM)	4	0	1	1	2	50%	0
Integrated Risk Assessment (IR)	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Environmental Futures (EF)	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>21</b>

\* Categories listed in the “1998 Nomination Procedures and Guidelines.”

honorable mention (21). There were no re-categorized or combined nominations identified this year. The full list of award recommendations is contained in Appendix A. Eligible authors are noted in boldface in Appendix A. The percentage figure following their names reflects their individual level of effort on a given nomination as provided by EPA.

### 3.3.1 Level I Awards

Two Level I awards were recommended this year.

### 3.3.2 Level II Awards

Eleven Level II awards were recommended. Please see pages A-1 through A-2 of Appendix A for details.



### **3.3.3 Level III Awards**

Twenty-nine Level III awards were recommended. Please see pages A-2 through A-11 of Appendix A for details.

### **3.3.4 Honorable Mention**

Twenty-one nominations were judged as being worthy of an Honorable Mention. Please see pages A-11 through A-17 of Appendix A for details.

A list of acronyms used in Table A is on page A-17.

## Appendix A - Nominations Recommended for Awards

This Appendix identifies the 42 nominations recommended for Level I, II, and III awards and the 21 nominations recommended for an Honorable Mention. This Appendix is divided into four parts. The first part (page A-1) provides information on the Level I award recommendations. The second part (pages A-1 to A-2) provides information on the Level II award recommendations. The third part (pages A-2 to A-11) provides information on the Level III award recommendations. The fourth part (pages A-11 to A-17) provides information on the Honorable Mention recommendations.

The first column (**Nom. #**) gives the nomination number as provided by EPA in the original submission. The second column (**Titles and Citations of Submitted Papers**) provides the full title and citation of all papers submitted as part of a given nomination. The third column (**Authors and Nominating Organization**) provides the name(s) of the EPA eligible authors (in boldface type) along with their level of effort (percentage) on the nomination. The primary nominating organization is also listed. The fourth column (**Recommended Award Level**) indicates which award is recommended (Level I, II, or III or Honorable Mention). The last column (**Suggested Citation from Nominating Organization**) reflects the language of the citation that was provided to the Subcommittee by the Agency. These are not Subcommittee citations.

**Appendix A -  
FY2000 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards (STAA)  
Nominations Recommended for Awards**

[illegible]

\* NOTE: The percentages given after each name represent the percent of the total level of effort as documented in the EPA nomination.





[illegible]

\* NOTE: The percentages given after each name represent the percent of the total level of effort as documented in the EPA nomination.

Nom. #	Titles and Citations of Submitted Papers	Eligible Authors* and Nominating Organization	Recommended Award Level	Suggested Citation from Nominating Organization

**Key to Acronyms used in the above Table:**

NCEA      National Center for Environmental Assessment  
NERL      National Exposure Research Laboratory  
NHEERL    National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory  
NRMRL    National Risk Management Research Laboratory  
OPPTS     Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances

*\* NOTE: The percentages given after each name represent the percent of the total level of effort as documented in the EPA nomination.*

OSP Office of Science Policy  
OSWER Office Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
RTP Research Triangle Park

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*\* NOTE: The percentages given after each name represent the percent of the total level of effort as documented in the EPA nomination.*